



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL CHAIR



Aloha!

The Honolulu City Council has worked diligently over the past fiscal year to secure our City's future and to provide for our children and generations to come. The City Council has responded to a broad array of concerns, taking appropriate action to remedy immediate problems and to address future requirements of our city that will help to improve the overall quality of life on Oahu.

Presented on the following pages of this annual report are highlights of the Council's legislative actions and accomplishments during the past fiscal year. The Council paid particular attention to:

- Protecting public health and the environment by providing the necessary infrastructure;
- Ensuring public safety by supporting police, fire, and emergency response services to allow them to operate with maximum efficiency;
- Improving traffic safety and enhancing our transportation services by considering various transit options;
- Supporting plantation housing, affordable housing, housing for the elderly and homeless;
- Enhancing and maintaining recreational facilities and natural resources;
- Regulating land use;
- Encouraging economic development;
- Providing property tax relief;
- Addressing programs for persons with specific needs;
- Funding city operations and projects to ensure efficient and effective delivery of city services.

In 2006, your City Council adopted legislation establishing three task forces to solicit input and suggestions to:

- promote agriculture;
- evaluate the efficiency of the current neighborhood board system;
- examine information contained in the Alternative Analysis and submit findings and recommendations to the City Council to assist in the selection of the locally preferred alternative for mass transit.

The Council continued its effort to increase public involvement and participation in the legislation process by conducting Council meetings at Brigham Young University, Laie and Kapolei Hale and budget public hearing meetings in Kahuku and Kaneohe.

In addition, the Council is progressing in its decision to select the locally preferred alternative for mass transit. The Council will be discussing various options to address Oahu's transit needs and issues including developing new land use regulations to help stimulate growth and density within the urban core along the mass transit line. The key to integrating the development of a new transit system with people's daily lives is to include transit-oriented development planning as part of the transit solution.

As always, we urge you to contact your Councilmember if you have any concerns or requests. The City Council continues to search for new ideas and novel approaches to solving routine problems. On behalf of your City Council, thank you for your continued support. We are eager to meet the challenges ahead and look forward to a productive 2007.

Mahalo nui loa.

Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Council Chair
District II